



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,  
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***POLYGONUM DOUGLASII SSP AUSTINAE***  
**AUSTIN'S KNOTWEED**

Austin's Knotweed is a sparsely hairy annual with erect stems that are 3-10 cm high and branched near their bases. The alternate, narrowly egg-shaped to elliptic leaves are 5-15 mm long and 1/2-1/3 as wide. The lower leaves have short petioles, while the upper leaves are sessile and smaller. There are small membranous stipules surrounding the stem at the point of leaf attachment. Groups of 1-4 tiny, nodding flowers occur in the axils of all but the lowest leaves. Each flower has 5-8 stamens and 5 petal-like tepals that are 2-3 mm long and green with white or pink margins. The shiny black achenes are 3-sided and mostly 2-2.5 mm long. Flowering in late July, fruiting in August.

The common *POLYGONUM DOUGLASII SSP DOUGLASII* has narrower leaves that are less than 1/3 as wide as they are long, and achenes that are ca. 3 mm long compared to *P. DOUGLASII SSP AUSTINAE*. Most other annual species of *POLYGONUM* in our area have erect flowers.